

OCT 23 1990

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 4 PAGES 125 - 148 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1990

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE

MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA NATURE

LIBRARY - BIBLIOTHÈQUE

17
80897
CMN

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Editor

Elizabeth Morton

Associate Editors

Bill Gummer

Peter Hall

Business Manager

Jim Montgomery

Production Staff

Proofreaders

Peter Hall

Judy Hall

Editorial Assistant

Joe Shepstone

Mailing Team

Co-ordinator

Michael Murphy

Mailing Team

Anne Blight

Stephen Blight

Duncan Chaundy

Jennifer Chaundy

Don Davidson

Deirdre Furlong

Colin Gaskell

Gwen Jenkins

**Views expressed in Trail & Landscape are not necessarily those of the
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club**

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

Jeff Harrison

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees:

Individual (yearly) \$20

Family (yearly) \$22

Sustaining (yearly) \$50

Life (one payment) \$500

Subscriptions to *Trail & Landscape*:
(libraries and institutions):

\$20 per year (volume)

Single copies of recent issues:

\$5.00 each postpaid

Index to Volumes 1 - 20:

\$8.00 + \$2.00 postage and handling

Membership application, correspondence:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Box 3264, Station C

Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

Information:

(613) 722-3050

After 10 a.m.

Second Class Mail Registration #2777

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Published by
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 3264, Station C
Ottawa, Ont.
K1Y 4J5

Editorial Address
Elizabeth Morton, Editor
R.R. 2 Masham, Que.
J0X 2W0

Volume 24 Number 4 October – December 1990

Welcome, New Members	126
Our New Editorial Team	127
In Memory of Edith Chie Ikeda	127
Wildlife Garden Ceremony	128
Peter Hall	
From the Editor	130
Down by the Riverside	131
Charles Billington	
Call for Nominations for OFNC Council	132
9th Annual Christmas Bird Count Roundup 1989-90 Period	133
Bruce M. Di Labio	
Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards	137
Spring Bird Sightings	138
Michelle Martin	
Solar Energy at Work at the Baxter Conservation Area	142
Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society	142
The Ontario Heronry Inventory	143
Stony Swamp Nature Centre Fall Activities	143
Index to Volume 24	144
Thoughts on Time and Space	145
Joe Shepstone	
Coming Events	146

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them in to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form — typed, written, printed or painted!

Welcome, New Members

Marion & Ken Anderson
Cheryl D. Arratoon & Family
Judy A. Barton & Family
James B. & Agnes P. Beckett
C. Jane Craig
John Crittenden
Dwight T. Delahunt & Family
Claudia J. de Vilmorin
Thérèse R. Dionne
Catherine M. Emslie
Joan K. Frank
Hilary J. Girt
Marilyn Hahn
Diane & Duncan Hardie
Nuala McDonagh
Joan M. McKeen

Beth A. McKinlay & Family
Bridget M. McNeill
Alex S. MacNevin & Family
Kim Morgan
Beth Nolan
E. Anne Odell
Monique A. Paquette & Family
Martha D. Robinson & Family
Louise Rohonczy
Charles J. Saso
Ben Stewart
Mrs. Grethe Tolgyesy & Family
Harry Ward & Family
Nancy L. Wheeler
Kathy E. Wright

Other Areas

Paul Cieslewicz
Amherst, Massachusetts

John H. Sparling
Toronto, Ontario

Sandra Kinsey
Prince George, British Columbia

July 1, 1990

*Doreen Watler
Chairman
Membership Committee*

DEADLINE: Material intended for the January - March 1991 issue must be in the editor's hands before October 1st. Mail your manuscripts to

Fenya Brodo
Editor, *Trail & Landscape*
28 Benson Street
Nepean, Ontario
K2E 5J5

Fenya's telephone number is 225-7081.

Our New Editorial Team

Publications Committee is pleased to announce that thanks to the interest and concern of club members who answered our requests for help, we have successfully found an editorial team to take over *Trail & Landscape* from retiring editor Elizabeth Morton. At a June 1990 meeting, seven volunteers for *Trail & Landscape* were present: Fenya Brodo, Sandra Gushew, Bill Knight, Wendy and Rick McQuaig, Patricia Narraway and Peggy Robinson. Michael Corbeil was unable to attend. Fenya Brodo, an entomologist, has agreed to lead the new editorial and publishing team. Since 1966 she and her family have been active members of the club, and she has led a number of outings. Since the June meeting, others have also offered their services — Roger Bird, Helen and Kurt Eckler, Amy Odell and Diane Peace.

Full details of division of responsibilities have not yet been set but we have experienced help for all aspects of editing, assembling, preparing text, and so on. Peggy, Sandra and Rick agreed to assist Fenya with material as a start.

May we remind club members that the success of *Trail & Landscape* depends on the activities of members in seeing nature in our region and writing articles on what was seen, for the information of other members. This is what *Trail & Landscape* has depended on for its 24 years, during which period about 350 different names have appeared as authors of articles. "Articles" includes detailed presentations, general reviews, reports on club trips and doings, observations on unusual or rare fauna and flora, poems, nature drawings, and routine reports such as annual bird counts. Please keep this up, members!

Bill Gummer

In Memory of Edith Chie Ikeda

Edith Ikeda, a long-time member of our club, died Aug. 25th, 1990. She came to Ottawa from Vancouver about 1940 to work for the public service, the first Japanese-Canadian to be hired. During her career she held many responsible positions and at retirement was with CIDA (the Canadian International Development Agency). Many of you will remember her, a friendly, energetic person who took an active part in our many club activities. She was a member of the Excursions and Lectures Committee. Edith was never happier than when she was in the country following her natural history interests, including hiking, skiing and boating. She will be missed.

Mary Stewart

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA NATURE
LIBRARY - BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Wildlife Garden Ceremony

Story and photographs by Peter Hall

The official tree-planting ceremony to mark the inauguration of the Wildlife Garden showed clearly that Ottawa residents are ready to bring wildlife into the city.

On Sunday, June 10th, 1990, about 1,400 participants came out to the site in the Dominion Arboretum at the Central Experimental Farm to witness the ceremony and take a tour of the proposed location, despite a steady rain in the morning. The good turn-out was probably also a result of a telephone blitz of Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club members organized by the Education and Publicity Committee.

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' members led the tours following the developmental map of the area prepared by Toronto based landscape architect David Tomlinson. The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, co-sponsors of the garden,



Roy John, OFNC vice-president (*shovel in hand*), takes part with other invited dignitaries in a ceremonial tree planting at the site of the wildlife garden. A town crier (*right*) heralds the event.

arranged for the ceremony, refreshments and rides on several vintage wagons for the children.

The sun shone for only about an hour, but the timing was perfect, as it coincided with the planting of the ceremonial butternut tree. Roy John, OFNC vice-president, represented the club and there were also representatives of Agriculture Canada, Friends of the Farm, the National Capital Commission, Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The latter two supplied the funding for the initial work by the landscape architect.

In addition to the June 10th ceremony, club members have been active in a number of other ways getting the garden ready. On April 29, about 20 members carried out a half-day clean-up of the site. It resulted in about 25 full garbage bags (half of which contained re-cyclable material), as well as a large pile of metal and wood. Only the insides of a washing machine gave members trouble, but these parts were eventually hauled away by employees of the Farm.

Other members have been conducting an inventory of the wildlife already present in the wooded ravine. George McGee and Bill Holland organized their friends to conduct a census of the breeding birds. As well, lists of the plants and butterflies are also being compiled.



Club members toil over troublesome washing machine parts in the ravine during a clean-up of the site last spring.

The inventory of what is already there will be important in determining what is attracted in after the enhancing of the area for wildlife is completed. It is estimated that it could take about 20 years for the trees planted to reach a height sufficient to act as cover for birds and other animals. However, the garden could be open for the public in a few years.

There is, of course, much work still to be done. This year, more inventory work is required. In addition, some of the weedy vegetation will have to be cleared, the tree nursery established at the Farm will need to be maintained, and transplanting will have to be carried out at the appropriate times.

A slide show on the project is now being prepared and will be available for the OFNC monthly meeting in November. (See Coming Events in this issue for more details.) Come on out and get involved!

From the Editor

Some months ago I realized that I was unable to devote the time to *Trail & Landscape* that it requires, and even if I continued to try to honour the commitment I made to the club, the journal would suffer. I therefore submitted my resignation to the Publications Committee effective with the publication of volume 24, number 4.

Since this is my final issue I would like to take the opportunity to thank those who helped make these four issues possible: Peter and Judy Hall for proofreading, Michael Murphy and the Mailing Team for dealing with Post Office regulations and mailing lists, Suzanne Blain for moral and physical computer support, Gordon Pringle for liaison with the birders, Bill Gummer for his much appreciated support, Ron Bedford and the Publications Committee for their patience, Lomor Printers for doing a fine job, and last but not least the authors and compilers, without whose contributions there would be no journal.

I would also like to thank Joe Shepstone for willing courier services and for sharing the dining room table and living room floor with manuscripts and page proof in various states of completion, and, finally, my daughter Katie, whose late evening feedings forever adjusted my perspective on "extra-curricular activities." Francis Cook deserves a special thank you for providing encouragement and understanding in equal doses and for having faith in me.

Now I have the happy task of wishing the new editor, Fenya Brodo, and her team well. I encourage members to offer her their support and to send in their observations. Fenya's address is 28 Benson Street, Nepean, Ontario K2E 5J5.

Elizabeth Morton

Down by the Riverside

Charles Billington
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Manotick, Ontario

Not everyone is a hydrologist, but a lot of people see a river or two — the Ottawa, the Jock, Graham Creek, the Rideau, Kemptville Creek — on the way to work or school every day.

Sometimes the water is high, sometimes it's low. Currents change, banks slump in, sandbars form, ice scours the shore, algae clogs the channel. In other words, the river is alive and changing. It needs a certain space to adjust as the seasons change. Engineers call this space the flood plain, that nice flat open space on the sides of the river channel proper. It's a natural part of the river system, even if it looks dry fifty weeks of the year.

The old timers knew and understood the moods of the river. You can still see their houses today — farm houses built on a little hill while the fields slope off towards the creek. Pasture and woodlots were left along the river banks; houses were always on the high land. In the past 20 years, however, there has been a lot of seasonal and permanent development in narrow strips along the water front. In fact, some people like the water so much they want to live very close to it (sometimes too near for safety).

They cast their ancestor's caution to the wind. And it's easy to get lulled into a false sense of security based on "technology" ("surely by now they've got flooding under control") and their own experience ("my friend says the trouble on the river is low water not high").

People have short memories, too. The worst flooding in the Ottawa area in recent memory occurred only 14 years ago in 1976. Brewer Park and low-lying areas of Ottawa South were submerged and hundreds of thousands of dollars in property was lost or destroyed.

Flood plains are nice places to visit but we really shouldn't live there. One of the objectives of the Rideau River Conservation Authority is to protect people from the Rideau River, namely, flooding. The Conservation Authority has information on where not to build because of high water, unstable slopes or erosion problems. They have maps showing the expected high-water mark for serious flooding years on many local streams.

No one can actually stop a flood once it's under way. A combination of several weather factors coming together at the same time can cause the flood, for example, a heavy snowmelt (the single biggest factor in high spring water) occurring at the same time as prolonged heavy rainfall running into a channel

jammed by ice or constricted by infilling of the flood plain. The only place the water can go (and has been going for the last ten thousand years) is on to the surrounding flood plain. The cold water can rise quickly and move very fast. It can pick up docks, boat houses and vehicles, shift bridges, knock houses off foundations, and leave a load of fine mud over everything in its wake.

Water is the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of the natural world. It's so lovely, calming and soothing to the spirit. But it is also an awesome raw power and unstoppable destructive force, but destructive to people only if buildings, roads and other human works are sitting on the flood plain. If the low fringes of field are briefly flooded, if riverside wetlands become slightly wetter or the shoreline woods of the Baxter Conservation Area get a few more soggy spots, it's no big deal.

Give it some thought next time you see your local stream. Is there a little more development near the water than there was, say, five years ago? A little more erosion? A little more crowding of the river into a smaller and smaller space? It's just a matter of time. The river still calls the shots. It's one of the few remaining things that people can't "tame" completely. Some day, sooner or later, it will need that flood plain for itself again. And it will need it in an awful hurry.

Do yourself a favour if you're planning work near the water. Call your local conservation authority. Give the river some space. Let it be beautiful.

Call for Nominations for OFNC Council

The Nominating Committee is responsible for filling the positions of officers and other Council members.

We would like to remind club members that all may nominate candidates for the Council. Nominations require the signatures of the nominator and seconder and a statement of willingness to serve in the specified position by the nominee. Some relevant background information would be helpful.

The committee will also consider any suggestions for nominations that members wish to submit.

Nominations and other data must be sent to the Nominating Committee, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5, to arrive no later than November 15th, 1990.

9th Annual Christmas Bird Count Roundup 1989-90 Period

Bruce M. Di Labio

As with all bird counts, there is often one particular event or circumstance that quickly comes to mind. During this Christmas count period, it was literally frozen in our minds, as the month of December was one of the coldest on record. The birds, however, did not seem to mind the temperatures as much as one would anticipate, and many interesting species were observed.

The Ottawa-Hull count was held on December 17th, 1989. A total of 67 species was observed by 90 field observers and 111 feeder watchers. Feeder birds once again contributed to a number of record highs for this count. A total of 176 Mourning Doves, 93 Northern Cardinals and 296 House Finches were counted. Gull numbers were extremely low; this was expected as the frigid temperatures drove them farther south. The most exciting observations were the adult Peregrine Falcon on the Coats Building, a Common Snipe in Aylmer, and a Tufted Titmouse frequenting a feeder in Hampton Park. The count was compiled by Daniel Perrier and Daniel St. Hilaire.

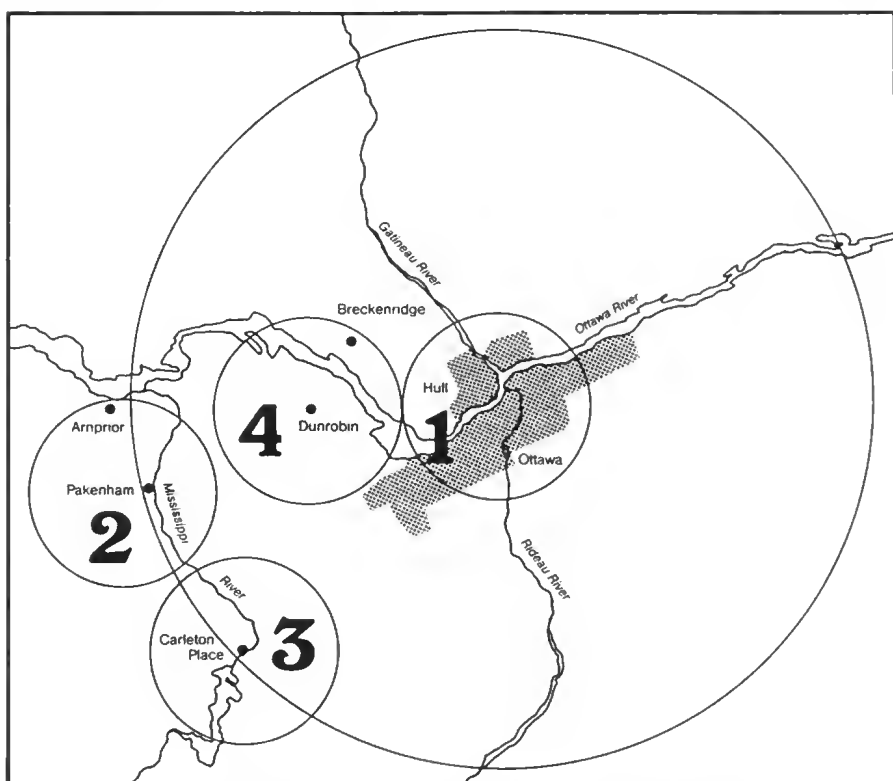
The Pakenham-Arnnprior count was held on December 26, 1989, and was organized by Michael Runtz. Everyone who was out on count day will never forget the wind. Verna McGiffin reported that she had never previously encountered such wind in her more than sixty years of count participation. Although the total number of individuals is about half the usual count, almost all of the expected species — 42 — were recorded. A Merlin near Blakeney, 2 Lapland Longspurs near Pakenham, and a Barred Owl in Arnnprior were all unexpected prizes. Despite two months of unrelenting cold that froze all but the fastest of waters, a Common Merganser at Pakenham and an astounding 15 Common Goldeneye at Galetta were spotted.

Held on December 30, 1989, the Carleton Place count was organized by Michael Jacques. Twenty-five field observers and 51 feeder watchers participated in this count, and 41 species were observed. Despite the cold, record highs of 133 Mourning Doves, 428 American Crows, 925 Black-capped Chickadees and 6 Lapland Longspurs were recorded. As the Dunrobin bird count, in which I participated, was held on the same day, I am well aware of the cold these participants had to face. Many thanks for braving these conditions.

Due to the conflict with New Year's Day and lack of ardent participation, the Dunrobin count date was changed to accommodate all concerned. As a result a new date was set — December 30th, 1989. Participation was good and its success was greatly enhanced by the enthusiastic group. A total of 50 species

recorded by 30 field observers and 5 feeder watchers. In keeping with the recent trend at feeders, record numbers were set with 64 Mourning Doves and 4 House Finches observed. This count was compiled by the author.

Acknowledgements: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all compilers and section leaders for their continued efforts in making this event a success. Once again my thanks to the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Le Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais and the Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club for their support.



*Map showing the locations of the four local Christmas bird counts in relation to the Ottawa District.
(The large circle is the boundary of the 50-km radius of the District.)*

Count Name	Date	Compiler	Total Species
1. Ottawa-Hull	Dec. 17	Daniel Perrier Daniel St. Hilaire	67
2. Pakenham-Arnprior	Dec. 26	Michael Runtz	42
3. Carleton-Place	Dec. 30	Michael Jacques	41
4. Dunrobin-Breckenridge	Dec. 30	Bruce Di Labio	50

Table 1. 1989-90 Christmas bird count roundup.

Species	Ottawa- Hull	Pakenham- Arnprior	Carleton Place	Dunrobin- Breckenridge	Total
Canada Goose	-	-	-	1	1
American Black Duck	332	-	1	23	356
Mallard	251	-	2	69*	322
Oldsquaw	1	-	-	-	1
Common Goldeneye	376	15	7	-	398
Barrow's Goldeneye	2	-	-	-	2
Hooded Merganser	1	-	-	-	1
Common Merganser	22	1	27	1	51
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	1	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2	-	1	6
Cooper's Hawk	3	-	-	-	3
Northern Goshawk	1	1	1	4	7
<i>Accipiter</i> species	1	1	-	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	4	1	3	6	14
Rough-legged Hawk	7	1	2	1	11
American Kestrel	10	-	2	2	14
Merlin	-	1***	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	1***	-	-	-	1
Gray Partridge	75	22	2	24	123
Ring-necked Pheasant	1**	-	-	-	1
Ruffed Grouse	37	35	40	65*	177
Common Snipe	1*	-	-	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	1	-	-	-	1
Herring Gull	21	-	-	-	21
Iceland Gull	3	-	-	-	3
Glaucous Gull	22	-	-	-	22
Great Black-backed Gull	53	-	-	-	53
Rock Dove	3,392	137	551	17	4,097
Mourning Dove	176*	21	133*	64*	394
Great Horned Owl	2	2	-	25	29
Snowy Owl	-	1	-	1	2
Barred Owl	1	1***	-	1	3
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	1	2
Downy Woodpecker	150	43	76	81	350
Hairy Woodpecker	122	33	89	89	333
Three-toed Woodpecker	1	-	-	-	1
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-	-	2	2
Pileated Woodpecker	13	3	4	14	34
Horned Lark	-	140	-	68	208
Gray Jay	1	-	-	-	1
Blue Jay	279	125	356	354	1,114

Table 1 (continued). 1989-90 Christmas bird count roundup.

Species	Ottawa- Hull	Pakenham- Arnprior	Carleton Place	Dunrobin- Breckenridge	Total
American Crow	444	178	428*	240	1,290
Common Raven	28*	12	-	24	64
Black-capped Chickadee	2,617	565	925*	1,676	5,783
Boreal Chickadee	6	-	-	1	7
Tufted Titmouse	1***	-	-	-	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	81	19	5	87	192
White-breasted Nuthatch	225	40	90	94	449
Brown Creeper	19	2	3	28	52
Winter Wren	1	-	-	-	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	18	18	1	33	70
American Robin	12	-	1	-	13
Bohemian Waxwing	943	158	180	103	1,384
Cedar Waxwing	44	-	6	-	50
Northern Shrike	14	-	-	7	21
European Starling	3,287	140	254	157	3,838
Northern Cardinal	93*	5	15	8	121
American Tree Sparrow	192	83	220	173	668
Song Sparrow	7	-	1	2	10
White-throated Sparrow	6	-	-	-	6
Dark-eyed Junco	168	23	21	30	242
Lapland Longspur	1	2	6*	15*	24
Snow Bunting	744	873	1,133	2,627	5,377
Red-winged Blackbird	2	-	-	-	2
Common Grackle	4	-	-	1	5
Pine Grosbeak	133	16	23	120	292
Purple Finch	14	-	67	3	84
House Finch	296*	28	8	4*	336
Red Crossbill	4	2	-	-	6
White-winged Crossbill	32	149	-	649*	830
Common Redpoll	28	3	25	4	60
Pine Siskin	73	15	33	29	150
American Goldfinch	653	147	270	245	1,315
Evening Grosbeak	182	510	652	578	1,922
House Sparrow	3,287	402	235	364	4,288

* record high

** new species for the count (therefore also record high for that species)

*** ties record high

Table 2. Summary for the 1989-90 period.

	Ottawa- Hull	Pakenham- Arnprior	Carleton Place	Dunrobin- Breckenridge
Total individuals	19,026	3,976	5,899	8,377
Total species	67	42	41	50

Table 3. Summary for the 1986-1990 period (four area counts combined).

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Total individuals	46,300	45,482	38,684	37,284
Total species	84	87	76	75

Correction: The Golden Eagle record should be deleted from the "Eighth Annual Christmas Bird Count Roundup 1988-1989 Period" (*Trail & Landscape* 23 (4): 186) and "Species List for Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Counts 1919-1988" (*Trail & Landscape* 23 (4): 190), as this observation was determined to be outside the 7 1/2 mile radius of Parliament Hill.

Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

Nominations are requested from club members for the following awards:

Honorary Membership

Member of the Year

Service

Conservation

Anne Hanes Natural History Award

Descriptions of these awards appeared in *Trail & Landscape* 22 (4): 188 (1988). With the exception of Honorary Membership, all nominees must be members in good standing. Honorary members do not have to be members of the club.

Nominations and supporting information must be received no later than December 15th, 1990. Submit them directly to W. K. Gummer, Chairman, Awards Committee, 2230 Lawn Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2B 7B2.

Spring Bird Sightings

Michelle Martin

March - May Period

Unusual weather this spring made for some early arrivals with high numbers of many migrants seen much earlier than usual, but, in general, migration was on schedule.

March and the first two weeks of April were quite cold and damp, but the last week of April had record-high temperatures; the weather felt more like a July heat wave than early spring. For the entire week the temperature was above 25 degrees C. during the daytime and went as high as 30 degrees C. This weather brought a lot of species in early, with eight species of warbler found on April 29th, including Palm, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Nashville and Pine. Despite this early warmth, a return to normal temperatures allowed migration to resume its normal course and May was fairly average.

Common Loons were first reported along the Ottawa River on April 8th. The first Pied-billed Grebe of the year was seen at Mud Lake at Britannia on April 8th as well. Horned Grebes arrived at the Ottawa River on the 14th of April with the first Red-necked Grebes appearing on the 15th. By April 25th there were 60 Horned Grebes and 30 Red-necked Grebes at Remic Rapids. A thorough check of the Ottawa River on April 26th netted a total of 150 Horned Grebes and 200 Red-necked Grebes, very high numbers. Double-crested Cormorants began returning in early April with the first reported from the Ottawa River on April 8th.

For many people the return of Canada Geese to our area is the first sign of spring. Numbers of Canada Geese began building at the usual sites of Bearbrook, Bourget and Riceville by mid-March with 1,000 at Bearbrook and 1,400 at Bourget on March 16th. This major influx was as much as two weeks early but still coincided with the flooding of the fields. By March 19th there were 6,600 at Bearbrook and by March 25th numbers had peaked at Bourget with 10,000 geese. Numbers began to fall off after that and by April 8th there were 2,500 at Bearbrook.

There were many sightings of Snow Geese, the first being reported from Bearbrook on March 19th, when two were seen. By March 24th there were 50 present at Bearbrook with another 200 at Ettyville and a further 400 seen at Bourget on March 28th. On April 25th, two Greater White-fronted Geese were found at a pond on Armstrong Road along with a Snow Goose and approximately 1,000 Canada Geese. The white-fronted geese were seen until April 28th. Another Greater White-fronted Goose was found on Wall Road at Frank Kenny Road along with a single Snow Goose and 8,000 Canada Geese. A flock

of 47 Brant, the last of the geese to migrate, was seen at the boat landing at Shirleys Bay on May 15th.

Along with the return of the geese come the ducks. On March 16th many new arrivals were found including Northern Pintails, American Wigeon, Oldsquaw, Lesser Scaup and Hooded Mergansers along with the overwintering Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes. By March 17th Wood Ducks were in evidence. A visit to Shirleys Bay March 20th yielded over 50 Common Mergansers, 50 Common Goldeneyes, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 5 Hooded Mergansers, a pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes and 5 Bufflehead as well as Greater and Lesser scaup and Ring-necked Ducks at Deschênes Rapids. On March 24th there were over 1,000 Northern Pintails at Ettyville.

Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen in ones and twos as late as April 19th, with an adult seen that day at Shirleys Bay along with six Gadwall. Redhead and Canvasback, two of each, were first reported April 14th and 15th, respectively.

The first Great Blue Heron of the year was reported on April 8th. A Great Egret was seen flying along the Ottawa River at MacLaren's Landing on April 30th. A Glossy Ibis was seen at Shirleys Bay on May 13th at the base of the dyke; unfortunately, it did not stay long. A Green-backed Heron was reported on May 9th. A Cattle Egret was found at Brewer Park on May 16th and was seen again on the 17th.

Sandhill Cranes were reported three times over the spring, involving four birds. One was seen at Bearbrook March 18th with another at Bourget on March 28th. Two were seen on Regional Road 26 on March 30th.

The familiar call of the Killdeer, another sure sign of spring, was first heard March 13th. By mid-March, American Woodcock could be found in their usual haunts, such as Clyde Avenue Woods. Common Snipe were first reported April 8th. The warm weather in late April produced unusual numbers of shorebirds with 30 Least Sandpipers, 2 Dunlin, 3 Wilson's Phalaropes and 2 Solitary Sandpipers reported on April 29th. Upland Sandpipers were reported April 26th and Spotted on April 28th, along with both Greater and Lesser yellowlegs. By May 6th Embrun Sewage Lagoon had 20 Lesser and 10 Greater yellowlegs, Dunlin, 50 Least Sandpipers and 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper. A White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from Casselman Lagoons on May 10th. The Casselman Lagoons were productive through the entire month of May with high numbers of 300 Least Sandpipers on May 20th and 101 Semipalmated Plovers on May 28th.

Gull numbers began to build by late March with 10,000 to 15,000 seen along the Ottawa River March 20th, mostly a mixture of Ring-billed and Herring gulls but including two Great Black-backed Gulls and one Iceland Gull. The first March record for Lesser Black-backed Gull was made March 20th at Brébeuf Park in Hull, where a first-winter bird was seen. A second Lesser Black-backed Gull, an adult, was found at the Nepean Dump on March 25th along with thousands of Ring-billed Gulls and hundreds of Herring Gulls. A first-winter Glaucous

Gull was seen the same day, March 25th, at Britannia. Another Iceland Gull, a second-winter bird, was found at the Navan Dump on April 16th. Bonaparte's Gulls were first reported May 6th.

A Caspian Tern was seen on April 27th, a product of the unseasonably warm weather of that week. Another Caspian Tern appeared at Remic Rapids on May 13th. Black Terns were seen at the Embrun Lagoons May 6th. Arctic Terns came through in late May, as usual, with a high count of eight birds on May 28th.

The white-phase Gyrfalcon, which first appeared in February, reappeared on March 8th on Frank Kenny Road. The Peregrine Falcon that overwintered at Tunneys Pasture was seen off and on through the entire spring. Merlins were reported occasionally throughout the spring with one on April 11th at Shirleys Bay, another on the Lower Aylmer Road May 24th and another, again at Shirleys Bay, on May 26th.

Both a Golden Eagle and a Bald Eagle were seen on March 11th from the Ramsay Lake Road. An adult Golden Eagle was found at Constance Creek and the Thomas Dolan Parkway on April 29th. An immature Bald Eagle was seen April 12th and 13th at Shirleys Bay. Turkey Vultures were first reported March 18th.

A Great Gray Owl was present just north of Gatineau on Montée Paiment, seen between March 8th and March 19th. At least four Snowy Owls could still be found in the area in mid-March and one late bird was seen at Shirleys Bay April 20th and 21st. As many as 10 Short-eared Owls were seen on the Wall Road on March 10th. Owling mid-March produced Saw-whet, Long-eared and Great Horned owls.

Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found on the spring count on May 27th, one at Lac Philippe and another along the Thomas Dolan Parkway. A Black-billed Cuckoo was also found the same day, at the Richmond Fen.

A Black-backed Woodpecker was seen at the Fourth Line feeding station March 18th and 22nd. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were back by March 19th and Yellow-shafted Flickers by March 15th.

Tree Swallows were first seen back March 21st but afterwards seemed to retreat a bit to wait for more suitable weather; they returned in force April 13th. Barn Swallows and Purple Martins were both reported April 20th with Rough-winged Swallows seen at Stillwater Park on April 22nd. Chimney Swifts were first reported May 1st. Whip-poor-wills were first reported on April 26th while Common Nighthawks, as usual, showed up about a month later, on May 21st.

Early records of Great Crested Flycatcher April 28th and 29th were caused by the heat wave of the last week of April. Eastern Kingbirds were also early with three seen on the 29th of April. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Petrie Island May 21st and Alder Flycatchers were reported from several areas May 26th. Olive-sided Flycatcher was first reported May 24th.

The Tufted Titmouse that overwintered at Hampton Park was seen throughout March and was last reported April 14th. A Boreal Chickadee which frequented Pink Road feeder was last seen March 2nd. The Carolina Wren that wintered in Aylmer was heard singing on March 4th. The Townsend's Solitaire, which could be seen through most of the winter at the Arboretum, was seen as late as April 14th.

Loggerhead Shrikes were reported back on territory near Smiths Falls by April 1st, when there were still Northern Shrikes around, seen April 1st and 6th at Shirleys Bay. Yet another product of the early heat wave of the last week of April were two Water Pipits seen on April 29th.

Bohemian Waxwings were present in good numbers throughout the winter and were seen through until the end of April. The later sightings were generally in mixed Bohemian and Cedar waxwing flocks with the proportion of Cedars becoming greater as the spring wore on.

Imagine eight species of warblers on April 29th in Ottawa! Along with the Yellow-rumped and Pine warblers and Northern Waterthrush there were Yellow, Palm, Black-and-white, Nashville and Blackburnian warblers. Philadelphia Vireo was present at Britannia April 28th and a Warbling Vireo on the 29th. By May 9th there were 14 species of warblers at Britannia, including Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Magnolia. A female Cerulean Warbler was seen along the Western Parkway at the Champlain Bridge on May 23rd. Golden-winged and Mourning warblers were found along Anderson Road on May 26th. Blackpolls were reported from Britannia by May 24th.

One of the highlights of the spring was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird found May 5th in the fields along Herzberg Road. Unlike many Yellow-headed Blackbirds, this one was seen and heard for a couple of hours, enabling many people to see it and to hear its unusual call. Red-winged Blackbirds were first reported April 16th.

Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Grackles were back by mid-March.

Three Lapland Longspurs were found in a mixed flock of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks on April 16th along Wall Road.

Song Sparrows were back by early March. Swamp Sparrows were reported by April 14th with Savannah and Vesper sparrows appearing by April 16th. The last two weeks of April produced Chipping Sparrows on the 21st, Field Sparrows on the 28th and an unusually early Grasshopper Sparrow on April 29th. Fox Sparrows were present in mid-April with a high count of eight in Clyde Avenue Woods on April 21st. White-crowned Sparrows were around by May 5th and Lincoln's Sparrows were first reported May 9th. Clay-coloured Sparrows were found along Leitrim Road on May 27th.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Larry Neily and all the callers to the Bird Status Line, Bruce Di Labio and the *Ottawa Citizen* bird column.

Solar Energy at Work at the Baxter Conservation Area

The Baxter Conservation Area on the Rideau River south of Ottawa has been a nature reserve and study site for natural resources and the environment since 1976. A new interpretive centre built this summer will be a working model of many energy conservation techniques, including a photovoltaic system. For those of you who are not familiar with the term, the photovoltaic or PV system uses an alternate energy source — the sun. The PV system transforms light into energy using specialized silicon solar cells that convert solar energy into direct current electricity.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, in co-operation with Energy, Mines and Resources Canada and Astropower Canada Ltd., installed the PV system during the winter of 1987-88. The new interpretive centre is designed and constructed to use the PV system efficiently. Energy captured by the solar cells powers many appliances including all indoor and some outdoor lights, ceiling fans, computer displays, and the super energy-efficient refrigerator.

The PV system is available for public viewing. For more information on the solar energy system contact Cliff Craig, Land Management Coordinator, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, at 692-3571.

Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society

In an effort to promote the conservation of bluebirds in Ontario, the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society was formed in the fall of 1988. The main objective of the society is "to increase the number of managed nest box trails and to give guidance to new bluebird trail operators." The society is attempting to monitor population trends of bluebirds across Ontario by asking nest box trail operators to keep track of the number of young birds fledged each year from nest boxes.

William Read, founder of the society, believes that well-managed nest box trails have helped significantly to improve the situation for the Eastern Bluebird in Ontario. The society membership fee of six dollars covers two issues of the newsletter each year and a copy of each year's summary of the survey of the fledgling results. Anyone interested in the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society should contact William Read, 165 Green Valley Drive, Unit 2, Kitchener, Ontario N2P 1K3.

The Ontario Heronry Inventory

The Ontario Heronry Inventory, a project of the Long Point Bird Observatory, is seeking volunteers to help with a two-year province-wide survey of Great Blue Heron colonies. The Ontario Heronry Inventory is compiling a catalogue of the locations of all of Ontario's heronries, using information provided by amateur and professional naturalists across the province. The second phase, in 1991, will be a province-wide census of as many colonies as possible. In a province the size of Ontario the contributions of volunteers are vital to a project of this magnitude.

A similar survey in 1980-81 determined that the heron population in Ontario was healthy. However, the Long Point Bird Observatory now wants to examine changes in distribution and abundance of herons that may have occurred over the ensuing ten years as a result of pollution, disturbance of nesting sites, habitat loss, etc.

OFNC members who know the location of a heron colony or are interested in participating in colony censuses can write to the Ontario Heronry Inventory. Even if the heronry's location is the only information you can contribute, they would appreciate hearing from you. Volunteers will receive complete instructions on how to conduct a census with minimum disturbance to the birds, as well as all the necessary materials.

To report heronry locations, to volunteer to conduct a census or to obtain more information about the Ontario Heronry Inventory, please contact Bev Collier, Ontario Heronry Inventory, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0, (519) 586-3531.

Stony Swamp Nature Centre Fall Activities

- | | |
|------------|---|
| October 6 | <i>Walk . . . to Kingston</i> Meet members of the Rideau Trail Association and take a one-hour guided hike along the first few kilometres of the trail. |
| October 7 | <i>Nature the Healer</i> Learn how to take a healthy hike. |
| October 13 | <i>Evening Walk to a Beaver Pond</i> For reservations call 828-3620. Maximum of 20 participants. |
| October 14 | <i>Animal Fashions Parade</i> A naturalist gives tips on how to move and sound like the animal you dress up as for Hallowe'en. |

For more information and start times call the Stony Swamp Nature Centre at 828-3620 or the Canada's Capital Information Centre at 239-5000.

Index to Volume 24

BIRDS

- Backyard Bird Banding 1988-89, 99
- Bird Records Subcommittee, Activities of the, for 1989, 108
- Birds in the Garden III, 104
- Christmas Bird Count Roundup 1989-90 Period, 9th Annual, 133
- Fall Bird Sightings, 79
- Fall Roundup, the 1989 Ottawa Valley, 111
- Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society, 142
- The Ontario Heronry Inventory, 143
- The Ontario Rare Breeding Bird Program, 30
- A Parliament of Birds, 103
- Ruby-Crown, 55
- Spring Bird Sightings, 138
- Summer Bird Sightings, 32
- Winter Bird Sightings, 116

CLUB HISTORY AND AFFAIRS

- Annual Business Meeting, the 111th, 43
- Correction to "Thank You, Joyce!", 42
- From the Editor, 130
- From the Editor's Computer, 6
- In Memory of Edith Chie Ikeda, 127
- Macoun Field Club Rare Book Collection, 105
- New Editor for *Trail & Landscape*, 6
- The 1990 Council, 44
- The 1990 Soiree, 91
- OFNC Awards, 1989, 91
- OFNC Committees for 1990, 45
- An Open Letter to the President, 46
- Our New Editorial Team, 127
- President's Report, 7
- Thank You, F. Montgomery Brigham, 48
- Thank You, Joyce!, 5
- Trail & Landscape* Circulation, 78
- Welcome, New Members, 3, 42, 90, 126
- Wildlife Garden Ceremony, 128

CONSERVATION

- Albion Road Wetlands Part 1, 56
- The Bog Near Spring Hill, 17
- An Open Letter to the President, 46

CONSERVATION (cont.)

White Fish Lake No More, 120

Wildlife Garden Ceremony, 128

FISH

White Fish Lake No More, 120

MACOUN FIELD CLUB

Macoun Field Club Rare Book Collection

PLANTS

Albion Road Wetlands Part 1, 56

The Bog Near Spring Hill, 17

Conyza ramosissima, Another New Weed in the Ottawa District, 94

The Horned Pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*) in the Ottawa District, 49

More on Sea-spurry (*Spergularia* spp.) in the Ottawa District, 52

Sandberg's Birch (*Betula x sandbergii*) in Ottawa-Carleton, 11

POEMS

Fall Event, 145

Ruby-Crown, 55

MISCELLANEOUS

Down by the Riverside, 131

Report from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 8

Solar Energy at Work at the Baxter Conservation Area, 142

Thoughts on Time and Space

Joe Shepstone

It could be said that every living organism has an innate awareness of space — its space. Space is the surrounding area that provides food, shelter, reproduction and death. Space can be the microscopic sphere in which a rotifer spins in peace or space can be the solar system with its gentle hold on our Earth.

Space is what we experience; time is what we conceive. Few organisms have a knowledge of time except where time is the measure of space to be/has been travelled. Take our diminutive rotifer: she sees her food and has to consider the time needed to "catch" it. Will she be able to get to it before it drifts away? Was she successful last time? Her concept of time is equal to her universe. Our concept of time is equal to ours.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee

For further information,
call the club number (722-3050).

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing.*

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM: *Club members must show their membership cards to gain access to the Canadian Museum of Nature for club functions after regular museum hours. There is a charge for parking in the museum lot.*

Sunday

7 October

9:00 a.m.

to

4:00 p.m.

AUTUMN COLOURS BUS TRIP

Leaders: Ellaine Dickson and Aileen Mason

Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington
Street

Cost: \$8.00 (see Registered Bus Trips for details)

Enjoy a scenic drive through the Outaouais region on the way to the Forest Educative Centre at Lac-la-Blanche. There will be some emphasis on tree identification along the trail system. Crisp air, a leisurely pace and the splendour of autumn leaves will be the order of the day. Bring a lunch and dress warmly.

Tuesday

9 October

8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

BIRDS OF THE ANTARCTIC

Speaker: Fran Goodspeed

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe
and McLeod Streets

Fran will speak about her trip to Antarctica and show slides taken on the trip. This will be a most interesting presentation.

Saturday
20 October
9:00 a.m.

13TH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH THE
OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB ON MOUNT
PAKENHAM

Meet: Booth and Albert Streets, southwest corner of the
parking lot

Enjoy a walk on the attractive ski trails on top of Mount
Pakenham. Bring a lunch to eat by a small lake. Transport
by car pool. For more information call Bill Grant (820-
0697).

Sunday
4 November
9:00 a.m.

LATE FALL RAMBLE IN THE GATINEAU

Leader: Philip Martin

Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington
Street

A general interest walk to see what we can find: nuts, fruit,
seeds, fungi, and so forth. Maybe even a bird! Bring a lunch
and dress warmly.

Saturday
10 November
6:00 p.m.
to
approximately
9:00 p.m.

VISIT TO THE INDIAN RIVER OBSERVATORY,
ALMONTE

Leaders: Philip Martin (729-3218) and Hilderick Brown

Meet: Neatby Building, front entrance off Carling Avenue,
Central Experimental Farm

Members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
have kindly offered to show us some of the current night-
time attractions, which include Saturn and Mars. Bring
warm clothing and a hot beverage! If weather is un-
favourable, the visit will be rescheduled. Please register
with the club number 722-3050 (after 10:00 a.m.). A map
will be provided at the meeting place.

Tuesday
13 November
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Speakers: Don Cuddy and other members of the Conserva-
tion Committee

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe
and McLeod Streets

The Chairman and other members of the Conservation
Committee will present a series of talks on topical environ-
mental issues of local interest, including the Wildlife Gar-
den.

Saturday
17 November
9:00 a.m.

GENERAL INTEREST WALK IN THE DUNROBIN AREA
 Leaders: Bruce Summers and Ellaine Dickson
 Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road and Assaly Road
 Bring a snack and dress warmly for this long half-day outing.

Sunday
2 December
8:00 a.m.

LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER BIRDS
 Leader: Roy John
 Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling Avenue and Woodroffe Avenue
 Participants on this half-day trip will visit several local areas in search of late fall stragglers and some of the more fascinating birds found in the Ottawa District during the winter months.

Saturday
8 December
10 a.m.

VISIT TO THE HERPETOLOGY SECTION, CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
 Leader: Francis Cook
 Meet: To be decided
 Because the Herpetology Section is due to be moved and the exact date is not yet known, participants must register with the club number (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.). You will be informed later of the location. The visit is limited to 24 people.

Sunday
16 December

THE OTTAWA-HULL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
 Participation fee: \$4.00
 Members interested in participating should call the club number (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.) or Daniel St. Hilaire (776-3822).

Other Area Counts

Count	Date	Compiler
Pakenham-Arnnprior	to be decided	Michael Runtz (1-623-6975)
Carleton Place	to be decided	Mike Jacques (1-257-4105)
Dunrobin-Breckenridge	to be decided	Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)

Tuesday
11 December
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
MOUNTAINS – THE ROCKIES AND PYRENEES
Speakers: Betty Marwood and Roy John
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe
and McLeod Streets

This very interesting presentation will feature slides taken in the Rockies and the Pyrenées and comparisons of the ways in which the flora and fauna of these two mountain ranges have adapted to their habitats.

Tuesday
8 January
8:00 p.m.

OFNC 112TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe
and McLeod Streets

At this meeting we elect our Council for 1991, introduce the members who make this club work, and report on the activities of the various committees as well as the club's financial position. This is an opportunity for you, as members, to participate with any questions and suggestions.

Sunday
27 January

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING IN ALFRED BOG

Leader: Don Cuddy

Participants should be prepared to ski 5 to 10 km, some of it off trail on fairly level terrain. The outing will be limited to the first 20 to reserve a place by calling the club number (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.) before January 24th. Don has led several club ski trips into Alfred Bog. Meeting place and time to be decided.

Spring Excursion to Point Pelee

The club is planning another four-day bus tour to coincide with the peak of spring migration at this world-renowned birding hot spot. The trip is tentatively scheduled for the second weekend in May (Thursday to Sunday inclusive), but only if there is sufficient early response. Those interested should contact the club number (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.) as soon as possible.

The Ottawa Duck Club

presents its

Fourteenth Annual Wildlife Art Show and Sale

prints – paintings – carvings

Friday 26 October 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday 27 October 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday 28 October 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Algonquin College
Lees Avenue Campus
Admission \$2.00

ISSN 0041-0748

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE
published by
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail Registration Number 2777
Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and Undeliverable Copies:
Box 3264, Postal Station C
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5
Return postage guaranteed

1 OF 1 02 X 2 -70202
NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF NATURAL
SCIENCES - LIBRARY
PO BOX 3443 - STATION D
OTTAWA, ON
K1P 6P4

Printed by
LOMOR PRINTERS LTD.



The GREEN LINE



There's an old joke that I love to tell:

Q: "How many scouts does it take to help an old lady across the street?"

A: "It depends on whether or not she wants to go."

With due respect to the lady's wishes, how many of us have offered our help or advice only to find it rejected - or worse still, ignored? As naturalists, we have a lot to say about the decisions about the natural environment that governments and agencies make on our behalf. It is hard enough for average Canadians to convey their expectations to government; it is even more difficult for naturalists to effect change since there is a perception among politicians that we are a small minority.

So our greatest opportunities come with a change of government. With a new provincial government at Queen's Park, now is the time for us to exert pressure for a Wetlands Policy; now is the time to obtain more direction and support for Conservation Authorities, with a mandate greater than maintaining agricultural resources; it is past time to repair the *Drainage Act*, which rewards farmers for destroying wetlands while requiring adjacent landowners - who may oppose the installation of a municipal drain - to pay the costs. On the local front, current and upcoming issues include: a proposed development for Lebreton Flats; OMB Hearings on the *Regional Official Plan*,

the *Ottawa Official Plan*, the Greenspace 2000 concept plan from the RMOC; the Ottawa-Carleton "Greenprint" initiative with its "Round Table on the Environment", scheduled for this fall.

Our Conservation Committee takes on as many of these issues as possible, and - speaking as a member of the committee - does an admirable job! But we can't leave all of the responsibility to a select few: we need all of our members to become more active in local and regional decisions that affect our environment. Each of us has something we feel passionately about and there's an opportunity for everyone. It would be a full-time job for any one person to keep on top of all of these issues. That's why we've got to talk about better use of club volunteers.

Maybe global issues are more important to you. So help save the rainforests if that's what you feel inspired to do. Support the groups doing the work you want done, they need your time as well as money. And do what you can, we want volunteers, not galley slaves! If you're busy - and who isn't? - at least write letters to your local newspaper, politicians and corporations to express your opinion. You don't have to provide a solution when you point out a problem.

And don't forget to write when you *approve* of a decision; I've found that

letters of support are far easier to write than letters of opposition! The City of Ottawa has stopped spraying and mowing road edges and they have received nothing but complaints from citizens. So I've written a letter praising them for allowing wildflowers to beautify our city, and I hope you will too!

Some people, who would like to "carry a brief for the club", face fears of not having sufficient background to do the job. Well, help is on the way! OFNC members have a great deal of collective experience in environmental matters. Information, strategies and techniques garnered over the years can now be shared with club members via a series of *Green Line Briefing Notes* available on request, free of charge and without obligation. These "backgrounders" are written by the people who have acquired expertise or knowledge of a particular situation or process by representing the OFNC. From now on, this kind of "debriefing" of club representatives can enrich us all. Subject titles already available include the *Leitrim Wetland*, *Clyde Woods*, *Planning & Development in Ottawa-Carleton*, *The Carmanagh Valley*, and a *Selected Reading List* (on relevant topics).

Each of us has a unique set of skills and experience to offer. If we each do something to improve our world - anything at all - the sky's the limit.

Golf Course Developer Up Creek (Part 2)

by Michael Murphy

The Ontario Municipal Board agrees! Golf courses don't belong in Class 1 Wetlands. In a 50-page decision finally released August 29th, the OMB finally ruled on the controversial zoning decision that permitted R.J. Nicol Construction Ltd to build the Eagle Creek Golf Course over top of 47 acres of class 1 wetland in Constance Creek. The

Board ruled that the Township of West Carleton had not conformed to policies of the province of Ontario that protect the environment. Unfortunately, although the OMB agreed that damage to the wetland had taken place, they decided that they had no jurisdiction to order restoration of the shoreline at the developer's expense. According to Phil Reilly, chairman of the Wetlands Preservation Group of West Carleton, the next step is to request designation of the project under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

Can Leitrim Wetland Be Saved?

by Michael Murphy

The Leitrim Wetland is provincially significant, according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the wetland is the source of the pure cold waters of Findley Creek, the last remaining trout stream in the region.

Delegates from the OFNC and other naturalist groups are optimistic about the progress of negotiations with Tartan Homes Ltd in working toward an alternative development proposal to protect the Leitrim Wetland and Findley Creek while still permitting residential development on adjacent lands owned by Tartan and other companies.

The key to the compromise is the concept of planning on the scope of an entire watershed, which entails a clear understanding of the hydrogeological system of which the Leitrim Wetland is only a part. The developer has been a willing participant in the necessary investigations. Thanks to Tartan Homes, the question of how to protect the significant natural features on the Leitrim site has been brought back into the planning process, which is all the naturalist groups were asking for in the first place, when they originally opposed the seriously-flawed plans to rezone the area.

Most of the Leitrim Wetland is inside the area designated for urban development, but with innovative watershed planning and some engineering, the wetland and the stream may be able to coexist with adjacent residential use. We're at a very preliminary stage of finding a solution but we're very optimistic on the basis of what we've seen so far. The City of Gloucester will play a key role in achieving success, since some amendments to Gloucester's Official Plan, affecting housing density and stormwater management for example, may be necessary to secure approval for a Plan of Subdivision. Tartan Homes and the naturalist groups have discussed measures to ensure the long-term survival of the Leitrim Wetland and Findley's Creek, including the option of transferring ownership of the wetland area into the public domain.

OFNC members Albert Dugal, Joyce Reddoch, Don Cuddy, Heidi Klein, Roy John and Michael Murphy have all contributed their time and expertise to the Planning Group. With continued hard work - and some more good luck - we may be able to report a victory for both sides in the next Green Line!



Philemon Wright Bird Refuge Under Fire

by Ian Huggett

As Aylmer's population swells, and fields and woodlots succumb to urban development, little remains of the original landscape. Only one minute 12-acre parcel - a representative sample of the region's original topography - still exists. This climax forest White Pine ecosystem is situated on the historic Philemon Wright Estate, now known as the Brigham and Bowie property.

The biological productivity, species diversity and ecological stability of the area is remarkable for such a small land base. Unfortunately, the surrounding urbanization, non-existent twenty years ago, has created an island biogeographical effect. This restricts migration corridors to other breeding populations and reduces the general fitness of its inhabitants. Consequently, only highly mobile species such as butterflies and birds have established themselves. Because of the explosion in residential development, subsequent environmental degradation was inevitable.

The property is the nesting site of a pair of Coopers Hawks, recognized on the Provincial Endangered Species List. These raptors lack legal protection until the spring of 1991 when legislation is to be drafted, according to Daniel St-Hilaire of the Quebec Fish & Game Association.

Stu Hamel, a NCC biologist, visited the site and agreed to its ecological value. However, because it didn't adjoin other NCC lands, the Commission wasn't interested in purchasing it.

Presently, the Bowies have sold their parcel to Helene Tremblay-Allen, an architect who works for the municipality. In order to fulfill her plans to build a house by the waterfront, the municipality is obliging her to develop the entire site. Accordingly, she plans to drive two public roads into the parcel and subdivide her land, creating four additional building lots. Approval for the subdivision and road was passed September 25th by Aylmer Council.

Conservation Committee members Mike Murphy and Don Cuddy will attempt to negotiate alternatives with the owners, one suggestion being to rezone the area within Aylmer's Official Plan to permit lower density use for this particular site. If the City of Aylmer refuses, mitigation measures must be discussed which would lessen the impact of development on the ancestral breeding territory. The possibility of purchasing a buffer strip to protect the most productive stands will also be examined.

If you are concerned, and would like to assist in the protection of this local bird refuge, contact ECO-WATCH at 684-5342.

■ The GREEN LINE News Editor:

Michael Murphy

(613) 727-1739